

FasTrak® Use Soars as Toll Bridge Traffic Continues Slide

- For the third straight year, average daily traffic on the Bay Area’s eight toll bridges decreased slightly. Though 2005 traffic volumes on each bridge ran close to 2004 levels, the combined number of toll bridge crossings fell 1 percent. Toll bridge traffic volumes declined by 2 percent from 2001 to 2005.
- Traffic across the Bay Bridge into San Francisco decreased by 2 percent in 2005, while traffic across the Golden Gate Bridge into the city slipped by less than 1 percent. Reflecting overall economic trends, 2005 traffic volume on the Bay Bridge was 5 percent lower than 2001 levels, and Golden Gate Bridge traffic fell 6 percent over the five-year period. The largest percentage decrease from 2001 to 2005 was at the Dumbarton Bridge, where average daily traffic dropped 13 percent during this period. To a large extent, this decrease reflects the opening of a third lane on the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge in November 2002.
- Traffic on the Antioch Bridge increased 1 percent from 2004 to 2005, and climbed by 14 percent from 2001 to 2005. This reflects continued growth at the outer edge of the Bay Area and in adjacent counties. But the increase is small in absolute terms, since traffic volume on the Antioch Bridge is less than 10,000 vehicles a day.
- Growing numbers of motorists are opting to pay their tolls electronically with FasTrak® toll tags. More than 49 million vehicles used FasTrak® in 2005, representing 35 percent of all toll-paying crossings. During peak periods, 37 percent of vehicles crossing the seven state-owned bridges used FasTrak®.

Average Daily Traffic on Bay Area Toll Bridges (toll direction only), 2001–2005

Bridge	Number of Vehicles					Percent Change	
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2004–2005	2001–2005
San Francisco-Oakland Bay	136,600	137,000	134,700	133,000	129,900	–2%	–5%
Carquinez	62,200	64,100	64,000	64,000	62,900	–2%	+1%
Golden Gate	56,500	54,900	52,700	53,400	53,200	–<1%	–6%
Benicia-Martinez	49,400	50,800	51,000	50,600	50,400	–<1%	+2%
San Mateo-Hayward	41,200	42,000	44,700	45,700	45,900	+<1%	+11%
Richmond-San Rafael	35,400	35,900	35,800	34,800	34,700	–<1%	–2%
Dumbarton	34,400	33,000	30,500	30,100	29,800	–1%	–13%
Antioch	6,500	6,900	7,100	7,300	7,400	+1%	+14%
Total All Bridges	422,200	424,600	420,500	418,900	414,200	–1%	–2%

Sources: Bay Area Toll Authority; Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

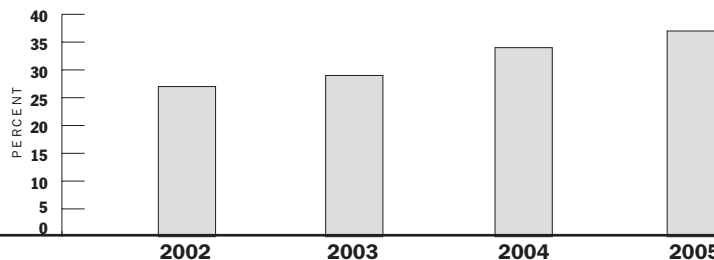
- The Golden Gate Bridge, which offers a \$1 discount for drivers who pay their tolls electronically, has the highest percentage of vehicles using FasTrak®. During the Golden Gate's two-hour peak period, as many as 70 percent of vehicles used the palm-sized toll tags in 2005. This percentage has held steady since 2003. Among the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges, where the peak period is defined as five hours in the morning commute or four hours in the evening, the Dumbarton, Benicia-

Martinez and Richmond-San Rafael bridges all had 40 percent or more of peak-period vehicles using FasTrak® in 2005.

- The Bay Bridge has experienced the largest increase in percentage of peak-period FasTrak® transactions, with a 15 percentage-point increase since 2002. There were over 14.5 million total FasTrak® crossings over the Bay Bridge in 2005.

FasTrak® Transactions as Share of Paid Peak-Period Crossings on Bay Area Toll Bridges, 2002 - 2005¹

	Percent of Vehicles Using FasTrak®				Change in Percentage Points	
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2004-2005	2002-2005
Golden Gate ² (a.m. peak)	69	70	70	70	0	+1
State-Owned Toll Bridges³						
Dumbarton (a.m. peak)	37	39	43	43	0	+6
Benicia-Martinez (p.m. peak)	29	30	35	42	+7	+13
Richmond-San Rafael (a.m. peak)	30	31	35	40	+5	+10
San Francisco-Oakland Bay (a.m. peak)	23	28	33	38	+5	+15
San Mateo-Hayward (a.m. peak)	28	32	37	38	+1	+10
Carquinez (p.m. peak)	28	28	32	34	+2	+6
Antioch (p.m. peak)	18	20	25	32	+7	+14
All State-Owned Bridges⁴	27%	29%	34%	37%	+3	+10



Sources: Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, Bay Area Toll Authority

¹ Figures do not include non-toll-paying vehicles (carpools, motorcycles or buses) or violators.

² The Golden Gate Bridge is operated by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District. Annual figures are not an average, but rather represent the highest single-day percentage of vehicles using FasTrak® in a given year. The a.m. peak period is from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

³ Figures represent the annual average percentage of vehicles using FasTrak® between the hours of 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. (a.m. peak) or 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (p.m. peak).

⁴ Figures represent a weighted average adjusted for actual vehicle volumes on each bridge.

Note: Chart at bottom of page is for State-Owned Toll Bridges only, and therefore does not include the Golden Gate Bridge data.